Oswald, the CIA & Mexico City (The Lopez Report) Section 1

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Written by Dan Hardway and Edwin Lopez for the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Important questions about Lee Harvey Oswald and his trip to Mexico City answered. An Our Hidden History Audiobook.

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The "thirteenth appendix" to the HSCA Report on the JFK assassination is a staff report entitled "Oswald, the CIA, and Mexico City." This report describes what the Committee learned about Lee Oswald's trip to Mexico City less than two months prior to the assassination. Questions it grapples with include why the CIA was apparently unable to obtain a photo of Oswald from any of its photographic surveillance stations (and instead produced a photo of a "Mystery Man" who was clearly not Oswald), whether Oswald was impersonated in Mexico City, and what credibility to attach to any of the indications and allegations of Communist conspiracy emanating from that city.

The so-called "Lopez Report," written by staffers Dan Hardway and Edwin Lopez, had a number of redactions removed in 2003. These included "CIA A" (Daniel Flores aka Luis Aparacio), "CIA B" (Thomas Keenan), "CIA F" (Robert Zambernardi), LICHANT/1's true name (Manuel Carvillo), and the previously blacked-out crypts ZRSOLO and ZRJOINT. It also revealed the name of a Mexico City CIA Chief of Station, Larry Sternfield. Many redactions remain.

The Lopez Report is a good starting place for grappling with some of the many mysteries of the Mexico City affair. Newly released files have provided new information not present in this report. The LBJ taped phone conversations for instance, include startling corroboration for the claim that audio intercepts of an Oswald impersonator were listened to by FBI agents in Dallas while Oswald was in custody. Declassified testimony of David Phillips, the Tarasoff couple who translated the tapes for the CIA, and others illuminate some areas and deepen the mystery in others.

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Oswald the CIA and Mexico City written by Dan hardway and Edwin Lopez House Select Committee on assassinations this version has gone through three rounds of declassification it was originally released by the CIA in 1993 the remaining redactions were reviewed by the John F Kennedy assassination records Review

Board in November 1995 and again in October 1996 publishers note redactions and the following text are read into this recording as redacted EndNote section 1 introduction a issues addressed the House Select Committee on assassinations investigation into Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City has been directed at answering the following questions one did Lee Harvey Oswald visit the Soviet and Cuban consulates or embassies in Mexico City two in addition to the visits which may have been made to the embassies what were Lee Harvey Oswald's activities while he was in Mexico City three was Lee Harvey Oswald alone in Mexico City if not who were his associates and what were their activities for did the Central Intelligence Agency maintain any surveillance operation aimed at the Cuban and Soviet diplomatic missions in Mexico City if so what kind five what information if any about Oswald's stay in Mexico was known by the CIA Mexico City station prior to the assassination and what was the source of that information six was the information if any in the possession of the CIA Mexico

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any in the possession of the CIA Mexico City station reported to the CIA headquarters accurately and expeditiously prior to the assassination seven was the information in the possession of the CIA Mexico City station reported to the CIA headquarters accurately and expeditiously after the assassination eight was the information developed by the CIA in Mexico City communicated to the Warren Commission in an accurate and expeditious manner nine did the CIA photo surveillance of the Cuban and Soviet diplomatic compounds in Mexico City if such photo surveillance existed obtained a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald if so what became of that photograph be differences between the Warren Commission investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico City and the House Select Committee on assassinations investigation the approach taken by this committees investigation differs from that of the Warren Commission primarily in terms of scope the Warren Commission and the investigative agencies at its disposal went to great lengths to establish Oswald's travel to and from Mexico but devoted minimal effort to evaluating Oswald's contacts with the Cuban and Soviet consulates it is the conclusion of this committee that the Warren Commission correctly established that Oswald handed traveled to Mexico City hence this committee has chosen not to reinvestigate Oswald's travel to and from Mexico City instead the committee's approach has been to focus narrowly on Oswald's contacts with the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic missions in Mexico City and on evidence that was not available to the Warren Commission that could possibly shed light on Oswald's activities in Mexico City outside of the

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activities in Mexico City outside of the Soviet and Cuban installations the Warren Commission limited its discussion of Oswald's contacts with the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic missions to information obtained from Silvia Duran and the Cuban government footnote C Warren Report pages 299 304 733 through 736 in support of its account of Oswald's contacts with the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic missions the Warren Commission published the following as exhibits one a note from the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Swiss ambassador in Cuba commissioned exhibit two four four five - Lee Harvey Oswald's visa application and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba's letter denying the visa Commission exhibit two five six four three letterhead memorandum to Jay Lee Rankin from Richard Helms re technical examination of photographs of Lee Harvey Oswald's application for a Cuban visa Commission exhibit three one two seven four the pages of Lee Harvey Oswald's notebook with the telephone numbers of the Cuban consulate the Soviet consulate and the Soviet military attache office commissioned exhibit two one two one five a letter dated November 9th 1963 from Lee Harvey Oswald to the Soviet embassy in Washington DC Commission exhibit 15 6 a letter from J Edgar Hoover to the Warren Commission listing the contents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's file holdings on Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination Commission exhibit 834 this document listed a Central Intelligence Agency release dated October 9th 1963 that reported Oswald's contact with the Soviet embassy in Mexico City 7 a memorandum dated May 14 1964 to the

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7 a memorandum dated May 14 1964 to the United States Embassy in Mexico City from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Mexico Commission exhibit 2 1 2:08 a memorandum dated June 9th 1964 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico to the United States Embassy in Mexico City Commission exhibit 2 1 2 3 9 a letterhead memorandum to Jay Lee Rankin from Richard Helms REE hours of work at the Cuban and Soviet consulates Commission exhibit 2 5 6 8 end footnote at one point in the report the Commission referred to other information quote by far the most important confirmation of signora Darrin's testimony however has been supplied by confidential sources of extremely high reliability available to the United States and Mexico the information from these sources establishes that her testimony was truthful and accurate in all material respects the identities of these sources cannot be disclosed without destroying their future usefulness to the United States end quote the Warren Commission did not print anything in the 26 volumes of evidence to support its statements that Silvia Durant's testimony was confirmed by confidential sources of extremely high reliability in an attempt to answer the questions posed by Lee Harvey Oswald's visit to Mexico City in September and October of 1963 the House Select Committee on assassinations has pursued the following investigative procedure one conducted extensive interviews depositions and executive session hearings involving Central Intelligence Agency personnel to interviewed Cuban citizens who could have knowledge of Oswald sojourn in Mexico three interviewed Mexican

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Mexico three interviewed Mexican citizens who could have knowledge of Oswald's activities and associations while he was in Mexico four conducted an extensive review of the files of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that pertained to Oswald and Mexico City si conclusions one someone who identified himself as Lee Harvey Oswald called the Soviet consulate on 1st of October 1963 this individual indicated that he had visited the Soviet consulate at least once other evidence from the CIA wiretap and witness testimony indicates that the individual visited the Soviet and Cuban consulate on five or six different occasions while the majority of the evidence tends to indicate that this individual was indeed Lee Harvey Oswald the possibility that someone else used Lee Harvey Oswald's name during this time in contacts with the Soviet and Cuban consulate cannot be absolutely dismissed to this committee has not been able to determine Lee Harvey Oswald's activities outside of the Cuban and Soviet embassies with certainty there is a report which has not been confirmed indicating that during his stay in Mexico Oswald attended a twist party at the home of reuben duran navarro the brother-in-law of sylvia duran there is also unconfirmed evidence which if true would indicate that oswald spent one night and parts of two days with a group of pro-castro students from the University of Mexico three there is a report that Oswald may have been in the company of a tall thin blond headed man while in Mexico this report has not been confirmed if true it is possible that this same individual may on occasion

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this same individual may on occasion have used Oswald's name in dealing with the Cuban and Soviet confluence the man's name if there was such a man is not known for on the dates that Oswald was in Mexico the CIA had photographic surveillance operations which covered entrances to the Soviet embassy and the Cuban embassy and consulate the CIA also had electronic surveillance on telephones in the Soviet consulate and military anti Shay's office and Cuban diplomatic compounds the telephone at the Cuban consulate was not subject to that surveillance five the CIA's Mexico City station definitely knew of Oswald's contacts with both the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic compounds and of his desire to obtain an in transit visa for travel to Russia via Cuba the source of this information was the electronic surveillance on the Soviet consulate and Soviet military anti Shay's office six all information in the possession of the CIA Mexico City station was not reported to CIA headquarters in an accurate and expeditious manner prior to the assassination seven with the exception of a few possibly benign irregularities and considering the possibility that not all of the information available to the station has been provided to this committee the information in the possession of the CIA Mexico station was reported in an accurate and expeditious manner after the assassination to headquarters eight with the exception of those areas that involved sensitive sources and

methods such as the information pertaining to the electronic and photographic surveillance of the Soviet and Cuban diplomatic compounds information developed by the CIA in Mexico was generally relayed to the Warren Commission in an accurate and

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Commission in an accurate and expeditious manner 9 it is the conclusion of this committee that the CIA's photo surveillance operations in Mexico City probably obtained a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald entering either or both the Soviet and Cuban consulates the CIA denies that such a photograph exists hence the disposition of this photograph is unknown 10 the CIA telephone surveillance on the Soviet embassy taped several calls of a man using the name Lee Oswald these tapes were retained for a routine two-week period and were most likely erased shortly after 16th of October 1963 these tapes were probably in existence at the time of the assassination 11 the committee is aware of the allegations that Sylvia tirado de Duran may have been an intelligence agent for either the Cubans Mexicans or Americans mr. an was probably never employed by Cuban intelligence while there is no direct evidence on the question other than mr. Ann's denial the committee believes that the circumstantial evidence that tends to indicate that mr. Wran had relationship of some type with either Mexican or American intelligence is of such a nature that the possibility cannot be dismissed d structure and relevancy the following report detailing the results of this committees investigation efforts regarding Mexico City is divided in two general areas one CIA surveillance operations in Mexico City during September and October of 1963 two information about Lee Harvey Oswald's stay in Mexico City that was known prior to the assassination three reconstruction of the CIA Mexico City Station and headquarters activity

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Station and headquarters activity regarding Oswald prior to the assassination for Mexico City reporting of information after the assassination five witnesses from the Cuban consulate six investigation of related information that was not available to the Warren Commission and seven reconstruction of Oswald's activities in Mexico City the reader should be advised at the outset that the first section following is technical in nature and may not appear directly relevant at first blush but the report is cumulative in nature the specific detailed analysis of the standard operating procedures in the first section are necessary to and form a partial basis for the reconstruction of the Mexico City station's handling of the Oswald case there are many gaps left by the documentary and testimonial evidence concerning the manner in which the CIA's Mexico City station and headquarters reacted to Oswald's presence in Mexico City a knowledge of the way in which the Mexico City station operated and the procedures involved in those surveillance operations which detected Oswald is valuable in filling the gaps of the specific case which is the subject of this report glossary of terms used in report agent a person who knowingly works for the CIA a on a contract or job basis asset a general term for persons not officers used by the CIA for example both agents and sources are assets an asset is anyone used in an operation or project whether or not that is aware that he is being used case officer see operations officer coverage surveillance crypto NIM a series of letters used by the CIA to identify someone or something while

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identify someone or something while protecting that person or things true identity all the letters in a crypt in them are capitalized the first two letters are assigned by the subject matter or locale to which the person or thing belongs the rest of the cripton M is randomly assigned C limited for example the Li designates that the project was located in Mexico chronological file a folder in which material is stored in chronological order usually used for production or communications type of material electronic intercept base house apartment or building that contains equipment used in intercepting and taping telephone conversations subject to electronic surveillance foi a Freedom of Information Act ymt CIA Krypton m4 photographic project aimed at the Soviet embassy in Mexico City ladder Road CIA Krypton M pre 1964 for surveillance operation aimed at the Cubans in Mexico City Li lyric CIA Krypton M assigned to one of the three bases which provided

photographic surveillance of the Soviet embassy in Mexico City Limerick CIA Krypton M meaning Soviet limited CIA Krypton M of one of three bases which provided photographic surveillance of the Soviet embassy in Mexico City lie onion CIA Krypton M for photographic surveillance operations aimed at the Cuban diplomatic compound in Mexico City after July 1960 or listening post see electronic intercept bass logs a list of photographs taken and the times they were taken prepared by agents in the photographic base houses monitors redacted who worked in the electronic

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redacted who worked in the electronic intercept base listening to conversations on telephone lines subject to wiretap and summarizing those conversations they deemed to be important officer CIA career employee operation a sub part of a project often used interchangeably with project Operations Officer CIA career employee term usually used in connection with an employee with responsibility for a particular operational project penetration agent an agent who works inside a target institution for example redacted worked for the CIA and the Cuban embassy in Mexico City P filed designation assigned to a personality file in the CIA's Mexico City Station a file for the retention of information in written form arranged according to individuals names photographic base house apartment or building used for housing of photographic surveillance equipment and the agents who operated always located near the target pitched made an effort to recruit as an agent asset or source production materials or information generated by an operation or project project a group or set of operations by the CIA aimed at a specific person institution or thing with the aim of collecting information influencing behavior etc project files a folder for the retention of information generated by or relating to a project generally broken down into four sub files developments and plans production support and operations pseudonym false name assigned to CIA officers for use in communication channels pulse camera a camera with a shutter that is automatically tripped by a

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that is automatically tripped by a triggering device activated by changes in light density resume a daily summary of important conversations on surveilled telephone lines prepared by monitors in the listening post selected out phrase used when a foreign service officer is retired after having been in one grade for the maximum period of time and is not considered qualified for promotion to a higher grade source a person who either wittingly or unwittingly provides information to the CIA station a CIA overseas installation it is the headquarters for operations in a particular country and is usually located redacted the country in which it is situated subject file folder for the retention of information in written form arranged by the subject matter of the information contained target a person institution or thing at which a project operation or pitch is aimed the LS - trigger device a machine which automatically triggers the shutter of a camera when it senses a change in light density used along with a camera and a spotting scope in a pulse camera

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